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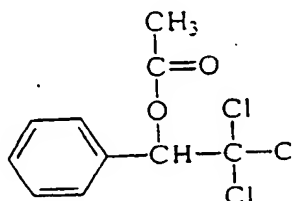
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(54) **Thermally-Responsive Record Material**

(57) Thermally-responsive record material comprises a support having provided thereon a thermally-sensitive color-forming composition comprising, in substantially contiguous relationship, an electron-donating dye precursor, an acidic developer material, a sensitizer compound of the formula

(I)



and a suitable binder therefor. The presence of the compound of formula (I) enhances the stability, intensity and speed of formation of an image produced in the record material in response to thermal energy input.

Description

This invention relates to thermally-responsive record material. It more particularly relates to such record material in the form of sheets coated with color-forming systems comprising chromogenic material (electron-donating dye precursor) and acidic color developer material. This invention particularly concerns a thermally-responsive record material (thermal record material) capable of forming a non-reversible image resistant to fade or erasure, and having improved image retention density.

Thermally-responsive record material systems are well known in the art and are described in many patents, for example, U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,539,375; 3,674,535; 3,746,675; 4,151,748; 4,181,771; 4,246,318 and 4,470,057. In these systems, basic chromogenic material and acidic color developer material are contained in a coating on a substrate which, when heated to a suitable temperature, melts or softens to permit said materials to react, thereby producing a colored mark.

Thermally-responsive record materials have characteristic thermal responses, desirably producing a colored image upon selective thermal exposure.

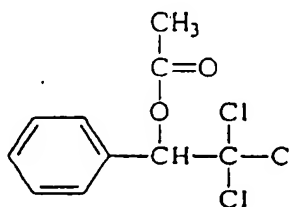
Some drawbacks of some thermally responsive record materials limiting utilization in certain environments and applications are the undesirable tendency of thermally responsive record materials upon forming an image to not retain that image in its original integrity over time or when the thermally responsive record material is handled or exposed to UV light or subjected to conditions of heat and humidity. The stability and intensity of the image formed by the thermally-responsive record material is of importance to the end user. A stable, faster imaging, high sensitivity paper is required by today's lower energy printing equipment.

A need exists to improve stability of thermal record materials to improve the archival capabilities of such record materials, and to enhance the environments in which such materials can be consistently utilized. Improvement in such record materials is needed to respond to the requirements of changing hardware, particularly thermal print heads operating at lower energies.

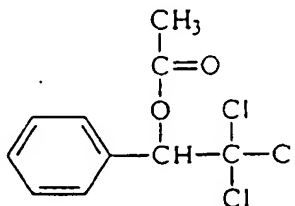
The ability of a thermally-responsive record material to have improved imaging characteristics such as enhanced image stability or intensity or faster imaging would be an advance in the art and of commercial significance. It is an object of the present invention to provide a thermally-responsive record material which is improved in one or more of these respects.

Accordingly, the present invention provides, in a first aspect, thermally-responsive record material comprising a support having provided thereon a thermally-sensitive color-forming composition, comprising, in substantially contiguous relationship, an electron-donating dye precursor, an acidic developer material, and a suitable binder therefor, characterized in that said composition also comprises a compound of the formula

(I)



(I)



for the purpose of enhancing the stability, intensity and/or speed of formation of an image produced in said record

material in response to thermal energy input.

In use of the record material, melting or sublimation of the dye precursor and/or the acidic developer material produces a change in color by reaction between the two, and thus a thermally-generated image.

The thermally-responsive record material of the invention has the unexpected and remarkable properties of being capable of forming a stable non-reversible high density image upon thermal contact.

The benzyl acetate of the invention desirably functions as a sensitizer facilitating reaction between the mark-forming components yielding a more intense image at lowered temperatures or faster imaging.

While the benzyl acetate used in the invention is a known material described in such patents as U.S. Patent Nos. 5,180,709 and 5,214,160 it has heretofore been used in the context of perfumes. Surprisingly the material has remarkable properties beneficial to manufacture of improved thermal record material according to the invention. Benzyl acetate according to formula I is commercially available from chemical speciality manufacturers such as Aldrich Chemical, Milwaukee, WI., but alternatively would be able to be synthesized by one skilled in the art. The benzyl acetate can be named as 7-(trichloromethyl)-benzyl acetate. This material can be synthesized from benzyl acetate for example by condensing benzyl acetate with a trichloromethyl alcohol. Other synthetic routes would be apparent to the artisan having skill in the synthetic arts. The invention resides in the surprising combination of this material within a thermally imaged record material.

The invention comprises a thermally sensitive color-forming composition comprising electron donating dye precursor and acidic developer material, a benzyl acetate of formula I and binder material. The unexpected feature of this composition is that the inclusion of the compound of formula I facilitates the color-forming reaction resulting in a more intense image or faster imaging by image formation at lower temperature. The record material according to the invention has a non-reversible image in that it is substantially non-reversible under the action of heat. The coating of the record material of the invention is basically a dewatered solid at ambient temperature and differs from reversible solvent liquid based compositions such as taught by Kito et al., in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,720,301 and 4,732,810 which erase upon exposure to elevated temperature from 20°C to 50°C. The image herein formed is non-reversible at such temperature. The color-forming composition (or system) of the record material of this invention comprises chromogenic material (electron-donating dye precursor) in its substantially colorless state, and acidic developer material such as, for example, phenolic compounds. The color-forming system relies upon melting, softening, or subliming one or more of the components to achieve reactive, color-producing contact.

The record material includes a substrate or support material which is generally in sheet form. For purposes of this invention, sheets can be referred to as support members and are understood to also means webs, ribbons, tapes, belts, films, cards and the like. Sheets denote articles having two large surface dimensions and a comparatively small thickness dimension. The substrate or support material can be opaque, transparent or translucent and could, itself, be colored or not. The material can be fibrous including, for example, paper and filamentous synthetic materials. It can be a film including, for example, cellophane and synthetic polymeric sheets cast, extruded, or otherwise formed. The gist of this invention resides in the color-forming composition coated on the substrate. The kind or type of substrate material is not critical.

The components of the color-forming system are in substantially a contiguous relationship, substantially homogeneously distributed throughout the coated layer or layers of material deposited on the substrate.

The term substantially contiguous relationship is understood to mean that the color-forming components are positioned in sufficient proximity such that upon melting, softening or subliming one or more of the components, a reactive color forming contact between the components is achieved. As is readily apparent to the person of ordinary skill in this art, these reactive components accordingly can be in the same coated layer or layers, or isolated or positioned in separate layers. In other words, one component can be positioned in the first layer, and reactive or sensitizer components or the benzyl acetate or acidic developer positioned in a subsequent layer or layers. The coating can optionally be applied to all of the substrate or spot printed on a certain portion. All such arrangements are understood herein as being substantially contiguous.

In manufacturing the record material, a coating composition is prepared which includes a fine dispersion of the components of the color-forming system, polymeric binder material, surface active agents and other additives in an aqueous coating medium. The composition can additionally contain inert pigments, such as clay, talc, aluminum hydroxide, calcined kaolin clay and calcium carbonate; synthetic pigments, such as urea-formaldehyde resin pigments; natural waxes such as Carnuba wax; synthetic waxes; lubricants such as zinc stearate; wetting agents; defoamers, and antioxidants. Other sensitizers can also be included. These sensitizers for example, can include acetoacetotoluidine, phenyl-1-hydroxy-2-naphthoate, 1,2-diphenoxyethane, and p-benzylbiphenyl.

The color-forming system components are substantially insoluble in the dispersion vehicle (preferably water) and are ground to an individual average particle size of between about 1 micron to about 10 microns, preferably about 1-3 microns. The polymeric binder material is substantially vehicle soluble although latexes are also eligible in some instances. Preferred water soluble binders include polyvinyl alcohol, hydroxy ethyl-cellulose, methylcellulose, methylhydroxypropylcellulose, starch, modified starches, gelatin and the like. Eligible latex materials include polyacrylates,

styrene-butadiene-rubber latexes, polyvinylacetates, polystyrene, and the like. The polymeric binder is used to protect the coated materials from brushing and handling forces occasioned by storage and use of thermal sheets. Binder should be present in an amount to afford such protection and in an amount less than will interfere with achieving reactive contact between color-forming reactive materials.

Coating weights can effectively be about 3 to about 9 grams per square meter (gsm) and preferably about 5 to about 6 gsm. The practical amount of color-forming materials is controlled by economic considerations, functional parameters and desired handling characteristics of the coated sheets.

Eligible election-donating dye precursors are chromogenic compounds, such as the phthalide, leucauramine and fluoran compounds, for use in the color-forming system are well known color-forming compounds. Examples of the compounds include Crystal Violet Lactone (3,3-bis(4-dimethylaminophenyl)-6-dimethylaminophthalide, U.S. Pat. No. RE 23,024); phenyl-, indol-, pyrrol-, and carbazol-substituted phthalides (for example, in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,491,111; 3,491,112; 3,491,116; 3,509,174); nitro-, amino-, amido-, sulfon amido-, aminobenzylidene-, halo-, anilino-substituted fluorans (for example, the U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,624,107; 3,627,78; 3,641,011; 3,642,828; 3,681,390); spirodipyrans (U.S. Pat. No. 3,971,808); and pyridine and pyrazine compounds (for example, in U.S. Pat. Nos. 3,775,424 and 3,853,869). Other specifically eligible chromogenic compounds, not limiting the invention in any way, are: 3-diethylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran (U.S. Pat. No. 4,510,513) also known as 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran; 3-dibutylamino-7-(2-chloroanilino) fluoran; 3-(N-ethyl-N-tetrahydrofurfurylamino)-6-methyl-7-3,5 6-tris(dimethylamino)spiro[9H-fluorene-9,1'(3'H)-isobenzofuran]-3'-one; 7-(1-ethyl-2-methylindol-3-yl)-7-(4-diethylamino-2-ethoxyphenyl)-5,7-dihydrofuro[3,4-b] pyridin-5-one (U.S. Pat. No. 4,246,318); 3-diethylamino-7-(2-chloroanilino)fluoran (U.S. Pat. No. 3,920,510); 3-(N-methylcyclohexylamino)-6-methyl-7-anilino fluoran (U.S. Pat. No. 3,959,571); 7-(1-octyl-2-methylindol-3-yl)-7-(4-diethylamino-2-ethoxyphenyl)-5,7-dihydrofuro[3,4-b]pyridin-5-one; 3-diethylamino-7,8-benzofluoran; 3,3-bis(1-ethyl-2-methylindol-3-yl)phthalide; 3-diethylamino-7-anilino fluoran; 3-dichthylamino-7-benzylaminofluoran; 3'-phenyl-7-dibenzylamino-2,2'-spirodi-[2H-1-benzopyran] and mixtures of any of the following.

Examples of eligible acidic developer material include the compounds listed in U.S. Pat. No. 3,539,375 as phenolic reactive material, particularly the monophenols and diphenols. Eligible acidic developer material also includes, without being considered as limiting, the following compounds which may be used individual or in mixtures: 4,4'-isopropylidinediphenol (Bisphenol A); p-hydroxybenzaldehyde; p-hydroxybenzophenone; p-hydroxypropiophenone; 2,4-dihydroxybenzophenone; 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane; salicylanilide; 4-hydroxy-2-methylacetophenone; 2-acetylbenzoic acid; m-hydroxyacetanilide; p-hydroxyacetanilide; 2, 4-dihydroxyacetophenone; 4-hydroxy-4'-methylbenzophenone; 4,4'-dihydroxybenzophenone; 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methylpentane; benzyl 4-hydroxyphenyl ketone; 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-5-methylhexane; ethyl-4,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-pentanoate; isopropyl-4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl) pentanoate; methyl-4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl) pentanoate; alkyl-4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl) pentanoate; 3,3-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)-pentane; 4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)-heptane; 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylpropane; 2,2-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl) butane; 2,2'-methylene-bis (4-ethyl-6-tertiarybutyl phenol); 4-hydroxycoumarin; 7-hydroxy-4-methylcoumarin; 2,2'-methylene-bis(4-octyl phenol); 4,4'-sulfonyldiphenol; 4,4'-thiobis(6-tertiarybutyl-m-cresol); methyl-p-hydroxybenzoate; n-propyl-p-hydroxybenzoate; benzyl-p-hydroxybenzoate. Preferred among these are the phenolic developer compounds. More preferred among the phenol compounds are 4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol, ethyl-4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)-pentanoate, n-propyl-4,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)pentanoate, isopropyl-4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl) pentanoate, methyl 4,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) pentanoate, 2,2-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methylpentane, p-hydroxybenzophenone, 2,4-dihydroxybenzophenone, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) cyclohexane, and benzyl-p-hydroxybenzoate. Acid compounds of other kind and types are eligible.

Examples of such other compounds are phenolic novolak resins which are the product of reaction between, for example, formaldehyde and a phenol such as an alkylphenol, e.g., p-octylphenol, or other phenols such as p-phenylphenol, and the like; and acid mineral materials including colloidal silica, kaolin, bentonite, attapulgite, hallosyte, and the like. Some of the polymers and minerals do not melt but undergo color reaction on fusion of the chromogen.

The following examples are given to illustrate some of the features of the present and should not be considered as limiting. In these examples all parts or proportions are by weight and all measurement are in the metric system, unless otherwise stated.

In all examples illustrated the present invention a dispersion of a particular system component was prepared by milling the component in an aqueous solution of the binder until a particle size of between about 1 micron and 10 microns was achieved. The milling was accomplished in an attritor or other suitable milling device. The desired average particle size was about 1-3 microns in each dispersion.

Although the examples illustrate the invention using 2,2-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methylpentane as the acidic developer material, the invention is readily practiced using any of the eligible acidic developer materials listed above.

The thermally-responsive sheets were made by making separate dispersions of chromogenic material, acidic material and the compound of formula I. The dispersions were mixed in the desired ratios and applied to a support with a wire wound rod and dried. The dispersions were mixed in the desired ratios and applied to a support with a wire wound rod and dried. Other materials such as fillers, antioxidants, lubricants and waxes can be added if desired. The

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sheets may be calendered to improve smoothness.

The thermal images are measured used a McBeth RD-922 densitometer. The densitometer is calibrated such that 0.08 indicates pure white and 1.79 a fully saturated black image.

Dispersions can be prepared in a quickie mill, attritor and small media mill. (Nopco NDW is a sulfonated castor oil produced by Nopco Chemical Company. Surfynol 104 is a di-tertiary acetylene glycol surface active agent produced by Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. Water-soluble polymers other than polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) may be used to prepare the dispersions.

Dispersion A - Chromogenic Material is N-102 3-diethylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran	
	Parts
N-102	94.95
PVA, Vinoll 205 20% in Water	81.00
Nopco NDW	0.23
Surfynol 104	1.13
Water	122.69

Dispersion B - Acidic Material is AP-5 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methylpentane	
	Parts
AP-5	102.00
PVA, Vinol 205 20% in Water	87.00
Nopco NDW	0.12
Surfynol 104	0.48
Water	153.26

Dispersion C1 - Sensitizer is ROSA 7-(trichloromethyl)-benzyl acetate	
	Parts
ROSA	89.25
PVA, vinol 205, 20% in water	76.13
Nopco NDW	0.11
Surfynol 104	0.42
Water	134.09

Dispersion C2 - Sensitizer is DPE 1,2 - diphenoxyethane	
	Parts
DPE	89.25
PVA, Vinol 205 20% in Water	76.13
Nopco NDW	0.11
Surfynol 104	0.42
Water	134.09

Dispersion C3 - Sensitizer is DMT dimethylterephthalate	
	Parts
DMT	89.25
PVA, vinol 205, 20% in water	76.13
Nopco NDW	0.11
Surfynol 104	0.42

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(continued)

Dispersion C3 - Sensitizer is DMT dimethylterephthalate	
	Parts
Water	134.09

Dispersion C4 - Sensitizer is DBO di-benzyl oxalate	
	Parts
DBO	89.25
PVA, vinol 205, 20% in water	76.13
Nopco NDW	0.11
Surfynol 104	0.42
Water	134.09

Dispersion C5- Sensitizer is PHNT phenyl -1- hydroxy - 2- naphthoate	
	Parts
PHNT	89.25
PVA, vinol 205, 20% in water	76.13
Nopco NDW	0.11
Surfynol 104	0.42
Water	134.09

Dispersion C6 - Sensitizer is PBBP p-benzyl biphenyl	
	Parts
PBBP	89.25
PVA, vinol 205, 20% in water	76.13
Nopco NDW	0.11
Surfynol 104	0.42
Water	134.09

Test Formulation		
	Material	Parts
Example 1	Dispersion A (N102)	0.75
	Dispersion B (AP-5)	2.69
	Dispersion C1 (ROSA)	2.69
	Filler	1.12
	PVA, Vinol 325, 10%	4.87
	Zinc stearate, 23.3%	1.03
	Water	6.85

	Material	Parts
Example 2 (comparative)	Dispersion A (N102)	0.75
	Dispersion B (AP-5)	2.69
	Dispersion C2 (DPE)	2.69

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(continued)

	Material	Parts
	Filler	1.12
	PVA, Vinol 325, 10%	4.87
	Zinc stearate, 23.3%	1.03
	Water	6.85

	Material	Parts
Example 3 (comparative)	Dispersion A (N102)	0.75
	Dispersion B (AP-5)	2.69
	Dispersion C3 (DMT)	2.69
	Filler	1.12
	PVA, Vinol 325, 10%	4.87
	Zinc stearate, 23.3%	1.03
	Water	6.85

	Material	Parts
Example 4 (comparative)	Dispersion A (N102)	0.75
	Dispersion B (AP-5)	2.69
	Dispersion C4 (DBO)	2.69
	Filler	1.12
	PVA, Vinol 325, 10%	4.87
	Zinc stearate, 23.3%	1.03
	Water	6.85

	Material	Parts
Example 5 (comparative)	Dispersion A (N102)	0.75
	Dispersion B (AP-5)	2.69
	Dispersion C5 (PHNT)	2.69
	Filler	1.12
	PVA, Vinol 325, 10%	4.87
	Zinc stearate, 23.3%	1.03
	Water	6.85

	Material	Parts
Example 6 (comparative)	Dispersion A (N102)	0.75
	Dispersion B (AP-5)	2.69
	Dispersion C6 (PBBP)	2.69
	Filler	1.12
	PVA, Vinol 325, 10%	4.87
	Zinc stearate, 23.3%	1.03
	Water	6.85

	60C 24 hr	40C-90%RH	UV Light	Fingerprint
		10 Day	10 Day	10 Day
Example 1	-16.00%	-17.00%	-10.00%	-31.00%
Example 2	-20.00%	-19.00%	-15.00%	-35.00%
Example 3	-18.51%	-29.10%	-21.66%	-29.89%
Example 4	-26.00%	-22.00%	-22.73%	-31.08%
Example 5	-20.64%	-23.64%	-21.11%	-30.18%
Example 6	-19.06%	-26.00%	-21.84%	-29.87%
Note: The lower % change the more stable				

60C-24 hour

Image stability test was completed by imaging the comparative example samples and Example 1 sample. The imaged samples were read on a McBeth RD-922 Densitometer. Samples were then stored in a 60C degrees oven for 24 hours. They were then reread in the same area read prior to exposure. % change in relative reflectance was then calculated.

40C-90% R.H. - 10 day test

Image stability test was completed by imaging the comparative example samples and Example 1 sample with a facsimile machine. The imaged samples were read on a McBeth RD-922 Densitometer. Samples were then stored in a 40C-90% relative humidity chamber for 10 days. They were then reread in the same area read prior to exposure. % change in relative reflectance was then calculated.

UV Light - 10 day

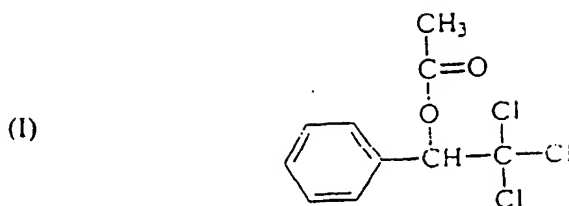
Image stability test was completed by imaging the comparative example samples and Example 1 sample with a facsimile machine. The imaged samples were read on a McBeth RD-922 Densitometer. Samples were then stored in a UV Light room (1500 lux) for 10 days. They were then reread in the same area read prior to exposure. % change in relative reflectance was then calculated.

Fingerprint - 10 day

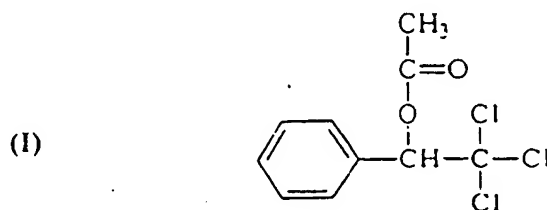
Image stability test was completed by imaging the comparative example samples and Example 1 sample with a facsimile machine. The imaged samples were read on a McBeth Densitometer. Samples were then exposed to fingerprints (5 second contact). After 10 days they were reread in the same area read prior to exposure. % change in relative reflectance was then calculated.

Claims

1. Thermally-responsive record material comprising a support having provided thereon a thermally-sensitive color-forming composition, comprising, in substantially contiguous relationship, an electron-donating dye precursor, an acidic developer material, and a suitable binder therefor, characterized in that said composition also comprises a compound of the formula



2. Thermally-responsive record material as claimed in claim 1 in which the acidic developer material is a phenol compound.
3. Thermally-responsive record material as claimed in claim 2 in which the phenol compound is 4,4'-isopropylidinediphenol, ethyl-4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)pentanoate, n-propyl-4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl) pentanoate, methyl-4,4-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)-pentanoate, allyl-4,4-bis (hydroxyphenyl) pentanoate, 2,2-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methylpentane, p-hydroxybenzophenone, 2,4-dihydroxybenzophenone, 1,1-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl) cyclohexane, 2,2-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)-5-methylhexane, benzyl-p-hydroxybenzoate, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.
4. Thermally-responsive record material as claimed in claims 2 and 3 in which the phenol compound is 2,2-bis (4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methylpentane.
5. Thermally-responsive record material as claimed in claims 2 and 3 in which the phenol compound is benzyl-p-hydroxybenzoate.
6. Thermally-responsive record material as claimed in any preceding claim in which the electron donating dye precursor is 3-diethylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran; 7-(1-ethyl-2-methyl-indol-3-yl)-7-(4-diethylamino-2-ethoxyphenyl)-5,7-dihydrofur 3[3,4-b] pyridin-5-one; 3-diethylamino-7-(2-chloroanilino)fluoran; 3-(N-methylcyclohexylamino)-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran; 7-(1-octyl-2-methyl-indol-3-yl)-7-(4-diethylamino-2-ethoxyphenyl)-5,7-dihydrofur o[3,4-b] pyridin-5-one; 3'-phenyl-7-dibenzylamino-2,2'-spiro-di[2H-1-benzopyran]; 3-dibutylamino-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran; 3-(N-ethyl-N-tetrahydrofurfurylamino)-6-methyl-7-anilino-fluoran; 3-dibutylamino-7-(2-chloroanilino) fluoran; 3,3-bis (4-dimethylaminophenyl)-6-dimethylaminophthalide; 7-(1-ethyl-2-methyl-indol-3-yl)-7-(4-diethylamino-2-ethoxyphenyl)-5,7-dihydrofur o[3,4-b] pyridine-5-one; 3,5',6'-tris (dimethylamino) spiro [9H-fluorene-9,1'(3'H) isobenzofuran] 3'-one, or a mixture of any two or more thereof.
7. Thermally-responsive record material as claimed in any preceding claim comprising an additional sensitizer.
8. Thermally-responsive record material as claimed in claim 7 wherein the additional sensitizer is 1,2-diphenox-yethane, acetoacet-o-toluedine, dimethyl terephthalate, p-benzylbiphenyl, and/or phenyl-1-hydroxy-2-naphthoate.
9. The use, in thermally-responsive record material, of a benzyl acetate of the formula



for the purpose of enhancing the stability, intensity and/or speed of formation of an image produced in said record material in response to thermal energy input.



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 9556

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
X, P	US 5 668 080 A (COVE MICHAEL GERALD ET AL) * the whole document *	1-9	B41M5/30
A	DATABASE WPI Week 7528 Derwent Publications Ltd., London. GB; AN 75-46668w XP002057228 & JP 49 116 135 A (OHASHI CHEM IND LTD) , 6 November 1974 * abstract *	1-9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			B41M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 27 February 1998	Examiner Martins Lopes, L
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

CPO FORM 1503 03/82 (P04C01)